

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-88 (Canceled).

89. (Currently Amended) A mass-production apparatus for making a commercial sandwich from two slices of bread, said apparatus comprising a platen designed to receive a first slice of said bread, said platen having a sealing surface surrounding a central portion, a first slice dispenser to deposit a first slice of bread on said platen such that only a portion of said first slice of said bread lies over said central portion, a first food dispenser to deposit a mass of a base food spread onto said first slice of bread above said central portion of said platen and at least partially spaced inwardly of said sealing surface, a second food dispenser to deposit a mass of an intermediate food spread on said ~~first~~ base food spread at least partially inwardly of a peripheral edge of said base food spread, a top food dispenser to deposit a mass of a top food spread over said intermediate food spread to substantially encapsulate said intermediate food spread between said top and base food spreads, and a second slice dispenser to deposit a second slice of bread on said top food spread.

90. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 89, wherein said top and base food spreads are substantially the same and said intermediate food spread is different from said top and base food spreads.

91. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 90, wherein said top and base food spreads include nut butter and said intermediate food spread includes jelly.

92. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 89, including a cutter to cut said first and second bread slices substantially in unison about a cutting surface of said platen that

is adjacent said sealing surface of said platen.

93. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 90, including a cutter to cut said first and second bread slices substantially in unison about a cutting surface of said platen that is adjacent said sealing surface of said platen.

94. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 92, wherein said cutter at least partially removes crust from at least one of said bread slices.

95. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 93, wherein said cutter at least partially removes crust from at least one of said bread slices.

96. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 89, including a pressure plate to at least partially press together a region spaced inwardly of an outer peripheral edge of said first and second bread slices by forcing said first and second bread slices against said pressure surface of said platen, said region substantially absent said base, intermediate, and top ~~layers of food spread~~ spreads.

97. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 93, including a pressure plate to at least partially press together a region spaced inwardly of an outer peripheral edge of said first and second cut bread slices by forcing said first and second bread slices against said pressure surface of said platen, said region substantially absent said base, intermediate, and top ~~layers of food spread~~ spreads.

98. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 96, wherein said pressure plate includes spaced projections to form spaced pressure points in at least one of said bread slices as said first and second bread slices are forced together.

99. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 97, wherein said pressure plate includes spaced projections to form spaced pressure points in at least one of said bread slices as said first and second cut bread slices are forced together.

100. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 89, wherein said central portion of said platen is at least partially recessed and has a depth that receives at least a portion of said one slice of said bread during the making of said commercial sandwich .

101. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 99, wherein said central portion of said platen is at least partially recessed and has a depth that receives at least a portion of said one slice of said bread during the making of said commercial sandwich .

102. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 100, wherein said recessed portion has a substantially inverted dome shape.

103. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 89, wherein said sealing surface is substantially flat.

104. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 99, wherein said sealing

surface is substantially flat.

105. (Currently Amended) A mass-production apparatus for making a commercial sandwich having two slices of bread and a base, intermediate, and top layer of food spread positioned between the slices of bread, said apparatus comprising a platen having a sealing surface surrounding a recessed central portion, a first slice dispenser to deposit a first slice of bread on said
5 platen such that only a portion of said first slice of said bread lies over said recessed central portion, a first food dispenser arrangement that at least partially deposits a mass of the base layer of food spread onto the first slice of bread above said recessed central portion and at least partially spaced inwardly of said sealing surface of said platen, a second food dispenser arrangement that at least partially deposits a mass of ~~an~~ the intermediate layer of food spread on said ~~first~~ base layer of said
10 food spread substantially inwardly of a peripheral edge of said base layer of ~~said~~ food spread, a top food dispenser arrangement that at least partially deposits a mass of ~~a~~ the top layer of food spread over said intermediate layer of ~~said~~ food spread to substantially at least partially encapsulate said intermediate layer of ~~said~~ food spread between said top and base layers of ~~said~~ food spread, a second slice dispenser to deposit a second slice of bread on said top layer of ~~said~~ food spread, a cutter to
15 substantially cut said first and second bread slices about a cutting surface that is adjacent said sealing surface of said platen, and a pressure plate that at least partially forces said first and second bread slices toward said sealing surface of said platen to form a sealing region between said cut bread slices that is substantially absent said layers of ~~said~~ food spread and that has a surface-to-surface seal which is absent fully compressed bread about a periphery of said sandwich, said pressure plate at
20 least partially causing said second slice of bread to recess in said central portion of said platen during the making of said commercial sandwich.

106. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 105, wherein said top and base layer of said food spreads are substantially the same and said intermediate layer of food spread is different from said top and base layer of said food spreads.

107. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 106, wherein said top and base layer of said food spreads include nut butter and said intermediate layer of said food spread includes jelly.

108. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 105, wherein said cutter is designed to substantially remove a crust from said first and second bread slices.

109. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 107, wherein said cutter is designed to substantially remove a crust from said first and second bread slices.

110. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 105, wherein said pressure plate includes spaced projections to form spaced pressure points in at least one of said bread slices as said first and second bread slices are pressed together.

111. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 109, wherein said pressure plate includes spaced projections to form spaced pressure points in at least one of said bread slices as said first and second bread slices are pressed together.

112. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 105, wherein said recessed

central portion has a shape of a substantially inverted dome.

113. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 110, wherein said recessed central portion has a shape of a substantially inverted dome.

114. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 105, wherein said sealing surface is substantially flat.

115. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 113, wherein said sealing surface is substantially flat.

116. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 105, wherein said first food dispenser arrangement includes a device that forms a said base layer of food spread having a rim that extends upwardly at least about 0.1 inch to define a central filling receiving receptacle in said base layer of ~~said~~ food spread.

117. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 115, wherein said first food dispenser arrangement includes a device that forms a said base layer of food spread having a rim that extends upwardly at least about 0.1 inch to define a central filling receiving receptacle in said base layer of ~~said~~ food spread.

118. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 105, wherein said platen moves to a plurality of locations during the making of said commercial sandwich.

119. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 117, wherein said platen moves to a plurality of locations during the making of said commercial sandwich.